

7/6/2022 NOTICE

We have eliminated mandatory mask-wearing, effective today, and are now “mask friendly” while Washtenaw County COVID case levels are at low or medium. Changes from our prior policy are highlighted in red in this update. There are times when masks may again be mandatory in the case of increased COVID exposures and infections, as explained on pp. 3-5, and also when the Washtenaw COVID risk level moves to “high”. We encourage masking to reduce exposure and risk, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

THE DISCOVERY CENTER COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

Updated 7-6-2022

Guidelines used by The Discovery Center for COVID-19 preparedness and exposure control follow those put forth by the State of Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) in “Guidelines for Safe Child Care Operations During COVID-19,” the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD), the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (MIOSHA) “COVID-19 Workplace Guidelines”, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In the event of differences in guidance among these entities, The Discovery Center follows guidance from the WCHD, as we believe it to be the best assessor of local conditions and therefore best positioned to provide guidance relative to our Ann Arbor preschool. Also, because most of our young children remain unvaccinated, public health guidance for them differs from guidance for adults and children age 5 and over. For the WCHD’s most recent guidance, please refer to their website, <https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/22509/WCHD-Summary-Guidance-for-K-12-Schools-1-6-22?bidId=>, particularly pages 8-9, “Preschool and Childcare Guidance.”

We strive to create a school culture of support, respect, and collaboration. In doing so, we also work together to promote best practices in hygiene, screening, distancing, and mask usage to promote well-being and good health for our students, staff, and families. We have a mutual responsibility to keep each other healthy and well; adhering to the following guidelines and policies supports this goal.

Child Screening

Families are required monitor their children’s health daily and keep them home if ill, and also encouraged to complete a health questionnaire daily before bringing children to the building using the QR code app provided by the Center to all families. At drop-off, our staff will conduct visual assessment and checks for illness and will ask follow-up questions if needed.

Fever is the key indicator for young children. If a child’s temperature is above 100.4 degrees, the child will be excluded from care. Cough and/or diarrhea in addition to fever is suggestive of coronavirus. A visual check will be performed, looking for signs of illness such as flushed cheeks, rapid or difficult breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness. The Discovery Center will continue to monitor children for symptoms throughout the day and check temperatures when children appear ill or “not themselves.” Children with a fever alone, or a fever with a cough and/or diarrhea, will

be isolated from the group and their parents contacted for prompt pickup. Their parents should contact their primary care physician/medical provider.

Families must report any child's contact with anyone who has had a documented case of COVID-19. Families must quarantine any child who has been exposed to COVID-19. Families must isolate any child who has symptoms of and/or who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Drop-Off

The Discovery Center asks that only one authorized adult accompany a child for drop-off and pick-up. See section, below, for details about picking children up at the end of the day. That person must adhere to all of our requirements, including items noted above and using hand sanitizer in the entry foyer/airlock for themselves and their children. Parents will take their children into their classrooms, complying with all guidance in this document, including minimizing time in the building. At this time, parents are not permitted to use observation areas in classroom offices and halls, nor will they be permitted to use our restroom facilities or linger at drop-off or pickup.

Pick-Up

Pick-up is to occur at the classroom, provided that parents comply with all of the following protocols:

- Agree not to enter the building if you have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or if you have had an exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and
- Use the hand sanitizer at the entry foyer/airlock, and
- Consider wearing a mask at all times when inside the building, and
- Comply with our one-parent rules for entering the building to drop off and pick up children, and
- Minimize time in the building, with a maximum time inside of 15 minutes, and
- Keep a 6' distance from others while both inside and outside the building, and
- Avoid using restrooms and the office or hallway observation areas.

Communication about the child's day will be relayed at pick-up. Ongoing communications between parents and teachers can also be maintained through the smart phone classroom Dojo app and other written communication.

Staff Screening

All staff must conduct checks on their own health for COVID-19 symptoms before they enter the building each day. Symptoms of illness, including cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, change in smell or taste, and/or diarrhea, are indicators that staff should not enter the building, staying home instead and seeking medical attention, including COVID testing, where needed. In case of a positive COVID-19 test, staff must isolate in accordance with WCHD's current guidance. Staff must report contact with anyone outside of work who has had a documented case of COVID-19, and they must self-quarantine in accordance with WCHD's current guidance if they have been exposed to COVID-19.

Hygiene and Sanitizing

- Regular handwashing is required with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds for staff and children.
- Center staff will regularly disinfect all surfaces, toys, play equipment after each use, and they will employ safe practices for use recommended by LARA.

- Staff must wear gloves in a manner consistent with existing licensing rules (for example, gloves will be worn when handling contaminants, changing diapers, cleaning or when serving food). Staff members will wash hands before putting gloves on and immediately after gloves are removed. Gloves are not recommended for broader use.
- Hand sanitizer will be located in the entryway, lobby, and in all classroom and staff office areas.
- Blankets and sheets will be washed after each use, immediately following naptime.

Social Distancing

- Children will remain with their classroom group at all times. There will be no mixing of classrooms. This includes all school events, outdoor play, and use of the Rainbow Room (large motor room).
- There will be head-to-toe positioning of cots for naptime, with cots spread out away from each other to the maximum extent possible.
- Outdoor play will occur regularly throughout the day for fresh air and movement.

Masks

Children. While masks are now optional during times of “low” and “medium” case levels in Washtenaw County, we are “mask friendly.” During times when masks may again be required, children are exempt who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing and whose ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. When outdoors, children are not required to wear masks unless parents have specified otherwise for at-risk individuals. Masks are to be provided by the family.

Parents, vendors, and other necessary visitors. Only necessary visits are permitted, including parents dropping off and picking up children, vendors delivering supplies, repair personnel needing access to interior equipment and spaces, and others. These visitors must avoid entering if they are unwell or have tested positive for COVID (even if asymptomatic). While masks are now optional under conditions noted above, we appreciate visitors wearing high-quality disposable or cloth masks, applying hand sanitizer at the lobby entryway, and maintaining social distancing.

Staff. As with children and visitors (above), masks are optional and encouraged for staff during under community COVID conditions noted above.

Items from Home

- Items brought from home should be limited in number.
- Comfort items may be especially needed during this time of transition as they may reduce stress for children. To avoid these items coming into contact with multiple children, such items will be kept in the child’s cubby except when needed, e.g., for use at naptime.
- Soft materials (blankets, soft comfort items) should be sent home for washing or washed daily at school.

Responding to Possible or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

- For children who show signs of illness, both COVID-19 and other, The Discovery Center will isolate the child in a safe location until the child can be picked up.
- If any staff begin to feel ill during the day, they must go home immediately.

- If a child, staff member, family member, or visitor becomes ill with COVID-19 (with or without symptoms), those individuals must report it immediately to The Discovery Center, which will contact the health department for next steps and its licensing consultant (where needed). Such notification will be made consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy law.
- Staff and families of children in care are required to report to The Discovery Center if they become symptomatic or receive positive COVID-19 test results, even if they experience no symptoms.
- If three (or more) individuals in a classroom are identified with a positive test for COVID-19, The Discovery Center will contact the WCHD for guidance. In addition, the classroom will be closed and cleaned, and children in that classroom who aren't fully vaccinated will be advised to quarantine (or isolate if they have tested positive for COVID) and to return only when they have met WCHD criteria for return.

The Discovery Center will report to the WCHD all demographic and other required information for COVID-19 cases.

Guidelines for Returning to School and Work

NOTE: Because of the changing nature of public health guidelines, the timelines and intervals in this section may change with or without prior notice. The Discovery Center follows the advice of various public health agencies as noted on page 1. In the event of conflicting guidance from agencies or regulators, we will comply foremost with that from the WCHD and from LARA's guidelines for safe operations during COVID-19. Families are also encouraged to contact the WCHD to obtain detailed guidance specific to their circumstances and to review the contents of the WCHD link on page 1.

Children. The WCHD's guidance for quarantine, isolation, and classroom quarantine closure was updated as of March 17, 2022 and is reflected below.

- In the case of close contact exposure (at least 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) to a COVID-positive individual and no symptoms and no positive test result, a fully-vaccinated child at least two weeks after the final dose is not required to quarantine, provided that the family has provided vaccination records to The Discovery Center for their child's health file. **However, such individuals must wear masks for ten days after the exposure, with the day after last contact being day 1 and mask wearing continuing through day 10.**
- In the case of close contact exposure to a COVID-positive individual and no symptoms and whether or not the child has tested positive, an unvaccinated child must quarantine for 5 days following the last contact with the COVID-positive case (day 0), if symptom free, and may return on day 6 after receiving a negative rapid antigen test (home test OK) administered on the morning of day 6 before school and sent to classroom staff (cell phone photo OK). The negative test result indicates the child is not contagious. **Upon return, the child must wear a well-fitting mask at all times after returning except when eating and napping, through day 10.**
- In the case of a vaccinated or unvaccinated child with COVID symptoms or with a positive test, the child must isolate for 5 days after the date of symptom onset (onset being day 0) and until the child has been fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours, and may return on day 6, after receiving a negative rapid antigen test (home test OK) administered on the morning of day 6 before school and sent to classroom staff (cell phone photo OK). If the day

6 rapid test result is positive, the child must stay home, and the family may administer another home test on day 7 and subsequent days if needed until a negative result is obtained, indicating the child is no longer contagious. **Upon return, the child must wear a well-fitting mask at all times after returning except when eating and napping through day 10.**

Staff. The WCHD's definition of "fully vaccinated" for adults has been updated to include booster shots and is incorporated in our policy effective March 17, 2022.

- In the case of close contact exposure to a COVID-positive individual (at least 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) with no symptoms and no positive test result, all staff members may continue to work, irrespective of vaccination status (vaccinated, vaccinated and boosted, or unvaccinated) provided they remain asymptomatic and do not test positive.
- In the case of a staff member experiencing COVID symptoms, getting a COVID test is required (either rapid antigen home test or a PCR test administered by a health care entity). If the test is positive, the staff member must isolate for 5 days following the last contact with the COVID-positive case (day 0) and may return on day 6 after receiving a negative rapid antigen test (home test OK) administered on the morning of day 6 before school and sent to the director (cell phone photo OK). If the day 6 rapid test result is positive, the staff member must stay home, and may self-administer another home test on day 7 and subsequent days if needed until a negative result is obtained, indicating the staff member is no longer contagious. **Upon return, the staff member must wear a well-fitting mask at all times through day 10.**

Summary of when masks are required for children, staff, and visitors. While we are mask friendly and hope to maintain our policy of optional mask-wearing, the following situations may require that masks be worn by children, teachers, and visitors:

- At all times by all individuals school-wide (except when eating or napping) when the community COVID risk level increases to "high" as monitored and reported by the WCHD, and
- At all times when a child, staff member, or visitor has been exposed to COVID outside the classroom but has tested negative for the virus, in which case that individual must wear a mask through day 10 after last exposure, and
- At times for an entire classroom (except when eating or napping) when a child or teacher has been diagnosed with a COVID infection, in which case the entire classroom (children and teachers) must wear masks through day 10 after last exposure.

No quarantine for documented COVID-19 infections within the last 90 days. Effective February 1, 2022, any staff member or child who has completed isolation in the previous 90 days following contracting COVID, and is symptom free, is not required to participate in a classroom quarantine, but rather is permitted to continue attending class. This exemption requires appropriate documentation that indicates that the date of a positive COVID test was 11 days before the 90-day period (where the positive test date is day 0 and the required 10-day isolation period runs from day 1 through day 10). The staff member or parent (for children) must provide a document from a healthcare entity (physician, drug store, drive-through COVID testing site, etc.) showing the person's name and date of the positive COVID test. For the well-being of our large population of unvaccinated children, we unfortunately will not be able to accept photos of at-home test kit results, nor will we be able to accept test result documents that do not show the name of the person along with test results and test date.

Appendix A

The Discovery Center Exposure Control Plan

MIOSHA guidelines call for employers to prepare an exposure control plan. This exposure control plan for The Discovery Center addresses the following key elements, as identified by MIOSHA. Parenthetical citations to applicable elements in our Preparedness and Response Plan are included by reference in this exposure control plan.

Exposure Determination (See “Child Screening” and “Staff Screening”.)

- All individuals will be screened before coming to school for the day (children by parents and staff performing self-checks).
- Children will be monitored by teachers for symptoms throughout the day, with temperature checks when children appear ill.

Engineering Controls

- A Plexiglass panel at the front desk will separate the staff member working at the desk from individuals who approach the desk.
- All drinking fountains will be covered so they cannot be used.
- Windows will remain open whenever practicable to promote fresh air circulation.

Administrative Controls (See “Drop-Off”, “Pick-Up”, “Hygiene and Sanitizing”, “Social Distancing”, and “Items from Home”.)

- Child drop-off and pick-up procedures have been redesigned to maximize social distancing and limit the number of individuals entering the building.
- Class sizes and staffing will not exceed the level needed to properly care for the children in attendance.
- There will be no mixing of children from multiple classrooms.
- Tables and cots will be positioned to maximize social distancing.
- Outdoor play will occur regularly throughout the day for fresh air.
- Frequent handwashing will be enforced.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building, and its frequent use will be encouraged.
- Soft materials (blankets, sheets, comfort items from home, etc.) will be washed daily.

Hand Hygiene and Environmental Surface Disinfection (See “Hygiene and Sanitizing”.)

- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer will be required of both staff and children.

Personal Protective Equipment (See “Masks” and “Hygiene and Sanitizing”.)

- During periods of “low” and “medium” community COVID risk levels, staff and children have the option of wearing disposable masks (preferably KN95, N95, or surgical masks) or cloth masks at all times except when precluded by specific activities (such as during meals and naps).
- Staff will wear gloves as required by existing licensing rules.

Health Surveillance (See “Responding to Possible or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19” and “Guidelines for Returning to School and Work”.)

- Staff, families, and other visitors must report to The Discovery Center if they become symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19. The Discovery Center will contact the WCHD and (where needed) our licensing consultant for guidance.
- Symptomatic children and staff members will be isolated and sent home.
- Everyone with COVID-19 symptoms, a positive test, or close contact exposure (if they themselves are not vaccinated) should self-quarantine (or isolate) and may not return to The Discovery Center program until they have met criteria for ending quarantine or isolation.

Training

- Training in exposure control will be provided to all new hires.
- Ongoing training and procedural updates will be provided via the Executive Committee.